

Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: E.

Date: March 23, 2005

Topic: First Review of Praxis I Cut Scores Proposed by the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure (ABTEL)

Presenter: Dr. Thomas A. Elliott, Assistant Superintendent for Teacher Education and Licensure

Telephone Number: 804/371-2522

E-Mail Address: thomas.elliott@doe.virginia.gov

Origin:

☐ Topic presented for information only (no board action required)

☒ Board review required by

☒ State or federal law or regulation

☐ Board of Education regulation

☐ Other: _____

☒ Action requested at this meeting ☐ Action requested at future meeting: _____ (date)

Previous Review/Action:

☐ No previous board review/action

☒ Previous review/action

date: September 22, 2004

action: Board deferred discussion of ABTEL's recommendation to a future meeting.

Background Information:

The 1980 session of the General Assembly mandated that the Board of Education identify and recommend an assessment for beginning teachers. On July 1, 1980, the Board of Education instituted a requirement that all beginning teachers applying for initial licensure submit scores for the National Teacher Examinations (NTE). In 1981 the board authorized validation and standard-setting studies for the NTE to determine passing scores for initial licensure of entry-level teachers. From July 1, 1981, until June 30, 1986, applicants were required to take the NTE to receive a license. Qualifying scores were established and, effective July 1, 1986, each beginning teacher was required to submit passing scores for each of the three Core Battery tests (General Knowledge, Communication Skills, and Professional Knowledge) and the Specialty Area test in his/her teaching area. From 1981 to 1996 the prescribed assessment was the NTE.

The Educational Testing Service (ETS) introduced in the fall of 1993 a new generation of teacher assessments, The Praxis Series: Professional Assessments for Beginning Teachers™. The Praxis Series replaced the NTE as the standard examinations used in the process for licensing teachers. The Praxis Series provides a continuum of assessments from entry into a teacher preparation program to actual practice in the classroom.

Standard-setting and validation studies for Praxis I were conducted on May 4 and 5, 1994, by ETS in coordination with the Virginia Department of Education. Thirty-three panelists participated in the studies. The panel of Virginia educators considered the Praxis I Mathematics, Reading, and Writing tests. Based on the validation and standard-setting panels, the following scores were recommended: Reading: 176; Writing: 173; and Mathematics: 175.

At its October 26, 1995, meeting the Board of Education selected passing scores one and a half to two Standard Errors of Measurement above the study panel recommendation for the Praxis I PPST (Pre-Professional Skills Tests) and approved the following passing scores for Virginia:

Reading:	178
Writing:	176
Mathematics:	178

These scores established by the Board of Education continue to be the highest qualifying scores for Praxis I among states (and the District of Columbia, Virgin Islands, Guam, and the Department of Defense Dependent Schools) using this assessment. The board approved the use of Praxis I and II tests; however, Praxis III was not adopted for statewide use.

On April 26, 2001, the Board of Education approved a policy allowing a composite score to satisfy the Praxis I requirement. Individuals may meet the Praxis I assessment requirement by achieving the scores established by the Board of Education on October 26, 1995, on each of the three Praxis I tests – Writing, Reading, and Mathematics – **or** by achieving an established composite score on all three tests. The qualifying scores for each of the individual tests and the composite score for the PPST are as follows:

VIRGINIA'S PRAXIS QUALIFYING SCORES

<u>Praxis I</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Writing</u>	<u>Mathematics</u>	<u>Composite</u> <u>Score</u>
PPST	178	176	178	532

On March 24, 2004, the Board of Education approved the use of the SAT® as a substitute test for Praxis I (Reading, Writing, and Mathematics) required for initial licensure. The board approved a score of **1000** on the SAT, taken prior to April 1, 1995, with at least **450** on the verbal and **510** on the mathematics tests or a score of **1100** on the SAT, taken after April 1, 1995, with at least **530** on the verbal and **530** on the mathematics tests as a substitute for Praxis I. The SAT® was approved as a substitute test **only** for Praxis I; individuals also must meet the Praxis II (subject area assessment) for initial licensure.

Summary of Major Elements

The Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure (ABTEL) received the Re-validation and Standard-Setting Study. On September 13, 2004, the advisory board reviewed the Re-validation and Standard-Setting Study and voted to recommend to the Board of Education the following cut scores for Praxis I:

Reading	178
Writing:	177
Mathematics:	<u>175</u>

Composite: 530

Superintendent Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education waive first review and adopt ABTEL's proposed cut scores for Praxis I. The Superintendent of Public Instruction further recommends that the board authorize the Department of Education to align the previously approved SAT and ACT scores with the proposed Praxis I scores.

Impact on Resources: N/A

Timetable for Further Review/Action: N/A